

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 2, Folder 16

May 12, 1954 -
September 22, 1954

0585

12 May 1954

Dear Captain Nutting:

I am to be in Washington on Monday the 17th to attend a showing at the Naval Photographic Center of the first two parts of the Battle of Savo Island film. This portion of the film is the only portion so far completed.

It was shown at the War College on Friday of last week and met with extraordinary approval. Admiral McCormick stated, "Extremely interesting and extremely effective".

While I am in Washington I am coming to see you about my extra aide.

I received a request yesterday from Captain Harry M.S. Gimber, Jr., who has been recently operated on for a throat problem, to be with me here.

He is due for some assignment after he leaves the War College, but this assignment has not as yet been selected. His trouble was, I think, cancer of the throat, but I do not want to be quoted on this. He is anxious to remain at the War College and I would be very pleased to have him. Can you arrange it?

It is my understanding that Captain Gimber has been declared fit for duty. Actually his voice is rasping and quite weak. I think you would be doing him a great service and me as well, to assign him to this office.

With best regards and many thanks for all you have done for me in the past, I am, as ever,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Captain Kelvin L. Nutting, USN
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Room 3077 ARLINGTON ANNEX
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D.C.

0586

AB(RWB:mmb)

20 May 1954

Dear Moosbrugger:

I was in Washington the other day and, in talking with Admiral Schindler, was interested to learn that you have established at the Postgraduate School a course in analysis.

This is highly interesting to me since I feel that we have been lacking in the understanding of analysis in the Navy for many years.

Could you tell me what this course consists of, what qualifications are necessary for entry, and where these graduates are to be employed?

You will be glad to know that things are going along very well here in Newport. We have just had Fleet Week with Admiral Wright and it was very successful. We are now making preparations to graduate this year's class on 17 June and to conduct Global Strategy Discussion prior thereto.

With very best regards and with hopes that all goes well with you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Rear Admiral Frederick Moosbrugger, USN
Superintendent, U.S. Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, California

0587

MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON

NAS, ANNACOSTIA

- (1) Attend showing of Savo Island Film at the Naval Photographic Center/ 1000 Monday. (CO, Captain John H. McElroy).

BUPERS (Arlington Annex) (continued Next Page)

- ✓ (1) See Captain Nutting (Room 3074 Tel Ext. 42881) about Captain Harry M.S. Gimber, Jr., (letter attached).
- ✓ (2) See Mr. John J. Hession (Room 4056 Tel. Ext. 41137) about Volume I of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. When will it appear?
- ✓ (3) See Captain *Edward J. Burke* (Room 2805, Tel Ext. 42025) about possible relief for BURTON, Maurice W., 413 40 23, YNC (YN-2501-85), USN and his being made available to ServLant for assignment, in June. (See next page--BUPERS)

OP NAV (Pentagon) (continued Next Page)

- (1) See Captain John C.S. McKillip (Room 5E625, Tel Ext. 56270) about Weather Charts. Charts do not show bad weather at Kyushu, for CinC Combined Fleet was grounded for two (2) days, October 18th and 19th.
- (2) See Admiral Frank T. Watkins (Room 4E474, Tel Ext. 54337) about Mrs. Tanaka..
- (3) See Rear Admiral W.G. Schindler (ACNO Readiness)(Room 4E552 Tel. Ext. 54611) about: (letter attached)
- (a) Naval Warfare Studies (RAND).
- (b) About Mrs. Tanaka.

MAIN NAVY

- (1) See Admiral Heffernan (Room 2509 Main Navy Bldg. Tel. Ext. 64443, and advise him that Admiral Bern Anderson is highly critical of the article "Air^{-Sea} Rescue off Halmahera" by Stephen J. Allen, YN1, USN in the May Naval Institute. Admiral Anderson states that it is an exact copy of the one he had prepared for Sam Morison's Volume XI and that he is going to do something about it. He further says that the article is published without permission of either Sam or himself.

✓ BUPERS (Captain Burke)(Continued from page one)

- (b) When will MORRILL, Charles C., 643 23 25, YN2 (YN-2522-82) USN, be made available to ServLant for assignment? His last extension on his shore duty expired in January 1954. He is anxious to go to sea so that he can obtain the required sea-duty for advancement to YN1. He would like to take the examinations in January 1955.

OP NAV (Pentagon)

- (4) See Captain Samuel C. Anderson (Room 5C667/75633) about Tel Ext. downgrading of SWPA microfilms 493, 586, 587, 588 and 593.
(5) See Captain William B. Moore, USN (Room 4D546 Tel. Ext. 52144), about Commander Hindman's billet. (Letter Attached). 52325

May 24, 1954

Dear Bill:

I cannot thank you too much for the promptness to which you replied to my confidential query during my visit to Washington.

The picture was exactly what I had expected as I had a "leak" on the subject from Captain Renard.

The gentleman in question is quite pleased with his assignment and I feel confident that you will not have cause to regret your action in this case. He is smart and is known for that here at the War College.

It was a lot of fun to see you in Washington. I hope the next time I go there I shall reestablish more fully the connection which so happily started on the good ship RICHMOND long ago.

I am sorry that you are not able to attend the Global Strategy Discussions. They will particularly be good this year, I think, and I look forward to them with great interest.

I hope if you get time you will read my Volume I of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. It is in great detail, but there cannot be any pros or cons in command unless this detail is adhered to. We have several top college professors now on the Staff who are reading this work and they are unanimous in their approval of it and of the method of attacking it.

With best regards and many thanks to you and Ralph on whom the big "air-load" falls, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Rear Admiral William L. Rees, USN
OPNAV Room 4E388 PENTAGON
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D.C.

0590

May 26, 1954

Dear Commander Suddath:

This is merely a note to tell you how much I appreciated, and how much the War College appreciates, the deep and understanding interest which you have displayed in the question of the Naval Warfare Analysis Group.

I have explained to Admirals McCormick and Robbins your position in this matter and I know they feel as I do, that you are far-seeing.

I enjoyed having a talk with Admiral Schindler and I feel sure that the Naval War College and your office are equally cognizant of the importance of the activation of this new Group in this area.

With very best regards, I am,

Very sincerely,

R.W. BATES
Commodore, USN(Ret)

Commander T.H. Suddath, USN
OpNav Room 4E552 PENTAGON Bldg
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D.C.

0591

27 May 1954

Dear Dr. Morton:

I note with considerable interest that your historical study, *Leyte: Return to the Philippines*, has been completed and delivered to the printer.

I am interested in knowing whether you have a draft of this book which we can borrow for a while, as it is not improbable that your researchers have discovered information which might be valuable to us here.

With very best regards, I am, as ever,

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Dr. Louis Morton
Special Staff, U.S. Army,
Military History Section
Room 624
119 D Street NE
Washington, D. C.

0592

2 June 1954

Dear Commander Suddath:

As you know, I have had considerable difficulty with my translators and you have been very indulgent in allowing me to hold them. Last year I dropped one of them, but I have retained the other, Mrs. Lily Tanaka, through, I understand, the thoughtfulness of your office.

I told Admiral Watkins that I expected to be through with the translations by 30 June and could call it a day then. In fact, I have told Mrs. Tanaka not to be surprised if she is released at that time. On the other hand, we have had made available to us the Footlocker Files of General of the Army MacArthur and I have been spending recent months getting out of that what I could.

Mrs. Tanaka has sent me a list of the work which I have told her to list as important and this translating takes time. I am therefore wondering if it is possible to hold Mrs. Tanaka anytime longer in order that my work may be of the highest order.

I have spoken to Admiral Watkins and he seemed favorable if I needed her, but I am not anxious to embarrass you and Admiral Schindler who have been so solicitous and helpful.

Of these translations to be done, I am particularly interested in Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8. The reports to the Throne are also of great importance although they are not necessarily correct.

I don't want to write to Admiral Watkins until I hear from you whether or not it is possible to retain Mrs. Tanaka for a few months.

I know that you probably feel that our estimates on translations are bad. This is true on the face of it, but not true as regards facts. Since Japan has become a free state and the occupation forces have been withdrawn, certain data has been made available to the Japanese people by the Japanese leaders. I have obtained some of it, notably the War Diary

0593

of Vice Admiral Ugaki who commanded BatDiv One at Leyte which is a wonderfully written document. New material brings new estimates, but we all think that we will have all reached as much as we want after the more important translations of the above list have been made.

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Commander Thomas H. Suddath, USN
OPNAV Room 4E552 Pentagon Bldg
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D. C.

0594

21 June 1954

Dear Redfield:

I am writing a critical analysis of the Battle for Leyte Gulf and presently am working on the Battle of Surigao Strait.

During this battle and just prior to opening fire, the battle line increased speed to fifteen knots although the speed ordered by Admiral Olendorf was five knots. Do you know why Weyler speeded up?

Can you remember the name of Weyler's Chief of Staff?

Things are going fine with me here. I hope that they are with you. Being so near to Montecello you have probably become Jeffersonian!

Best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Captain H. J. Redfield, USN(Ret)
1903 Edgewood Lane
Charlottesville, Va.

0595

22 June 1954

Dear Mr. Hession:

Volume I of the Battle of Leyte Gulf has arrived and I must say that the packing job on them is excellent! Thank you!

I am now interested in two other matters connected with the distribution. One of these is that the Naval War College which always had spare copies on hand for use of its students has no copies, and will perhaps not get any. Do you (a) desire me to put an official letter through you to have a designated number (i.e. 100) assigned to the Naval War College, (b) think it best to retain all at Scotia and the College ask for them as it will? I think the first idea is best because the presence of the copies here causes students to use them.

The War College has at the present time 700 or 800 copies each of the battles of Coral Sea, Midway and Savo Island. I should like to get permission to transfer most of these copies--perhaps retaining 100 for the War College--somewhere, perhaps to Scotia.

Will you advise me as to what you wish in this matter?

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R.W. BATES

Mr. John J. Hession
Room 4056 ARLINGTON ANNEX
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Washington 25, D.C.

0596

24 June 1954

Dear John:

It was nice to see you here the other day and to have lunch with you. It seems to me that you ought to come up here more frequently so that you can see how the makers of future history are being educated. This will facilitate your work later.

I am now about to seek your help. I have a translator, Mrs. Lily Y. Tanaka, whom you know to be very good indeed! I wrote a letter to Commander Suddath in Op-03D2 and suggested that we be allowed to retain her for a few months more in view of the fact that some of the translations we would like to have done have not been done.

Admiral Schindler forwarded our papers to Admiral Watkins with the recommendation that Mrs. Tanaka be released. This was not an unusual recommendation for Commander Suddath, for he has recommended more than once to the Chief of the section that the translators be dropped. All of his "bosses" heretofore have overruled him, but, in this case, I think Admiral Schindler decided to accept the recommendation. I am not being critical of Commander Suddath here, because he is a very capable fellow, but it is hard for him to see how history has any effect in his work.

I spoke to Admiral Watkins on the telephone today and he said that he was awaiting a recommendation from you. He also said that he was trying to get a fairly large sum of money (50,000 dollars) to build up your section. I told him that I thought it was a wonderful idea and that, he, Watkins, had a broad grasp of the fundamentals of warfare, and of the importance of history in understanding them.

I hope that you will see fit to recommend that Mrs. Tanaka be held over a few months. I also hope that you will be able to employ her yourself to translate some of the

0597

documents now in the National Archives. While such documents are not applicable to my section here, they are of general value to the Navy.

With very best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Rear Admiral John B. Heffernan, USN
Chief of Naval History
Room 2509 MAIN NAVY
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D.C.

June 28, 1954

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

Mindful of your query concerning information of human interest connected with the Graf Spee, I have had the files searched and find that there is some information which is generally classified.

A letter is therefore being forwarded to the Chief of Naval Operations requesting information as to whether or not this information can be made available to you. When we hear from this query I will advise you as to its results.

I was pleased to note your interest in coming to see the early progress on the film Battle of Savo Island. My two completed films (Coral Sea and Midway) and the first part of this film have been reviewed by the Staff and students of the War College and have all met with universal acclaim. I hope that you will be able to see the completed film of the Savo Island Battle and if you still wish to see the Battle of Midway I think that Admiral Hillenkoetter, under the restrictions which applied to Global Strategy Discussions, can show it to you.

Once again it was nice to see you up here during the Global Strategy Discussions and down there at Film Graphics. It is your deep interest in these matters and your desire for accuracy which makes you such a "live wire" in your chosen field.

With very best regards, I am, as ever,

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Hanson W. Baldwin,
Military Editor
New York Times
Times Square, New York, N.Y.

0599

1 July 1954

Dear McCorkle:

I received your letter of 28 June with a great deal of satisfaction because it shows me that you are on sound lines when you and your staff refer to lessons of the past as a guidance for future planning.

I appreciate your friendly remarks of Volume I of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. It has been reviewed by Admirals Henry K. Hewitt and Richard L. Conolly--for general strategy and tactics, Rear Admirals E. E. Yeomans--for Pacific Submarines, Ralph E. Wilson--for THIRD Fleet Operations, Wallace M. Beakley--for air operations in general, by Captains Murray J. Tichenor (Ret)--for SEVENTH Fleet Submarines, and George R. Phelan--for intelligence features with special reference to the Japanese. It has also been reviewed by Professors John Kimball and William T. Jones, both from Pomona College, on this staff--for form, structure and readability.

The general opinion from all hands has been especially favorable. Now with your kind remarks I feel that I am going on and on to better things.

For you interest, I have finished Volume II of the Battle for Leyte Gulf, which includes Oldendorf's operations preliminary to the landings.

I am also finishing the Battle of Surigao Strait, which is of importance to those interested in tactics and especially in night destroyer operations. However, don't look forward to seeing these books too soon as the reviewing of them takes time.

Once again I want to thank you for your interest and for your very nice letter.

With very best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Francis D. McCorkle, USN
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
Room 4C600 PENTAGON BLDG
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D. C.

0600

8 July 1954

Dear Germany:

As you perhaps know, I am working on the Battle for Leyte Gulf and have been so for sometime. My Volume I of this battle should be in your hands. I certainly hope that you will read it and give me the benefit of your experience.

Volume II, which covers the operations of Oldendorf's advance forces is generally completed, but must be reviewed. Volume III, which covers the landing operations and the naval operations up to the torpedoing of the Japanese cruisers off Palawan Island on October 23rd, is half done.

While working on the above, I have also been working on the Battle of Surigao Strait, and have it largely completed. I am missing, however, one item in connection with the COLUMBIA. The COLUMBIA's total allowance of 6-inch ammunition for this operation was: AP - 1,200 rounds; HC - 2,160 rounds - a total of 3,360 rounds. I know that you didn't fire any AP prior to the Battle of Surigao Strait and therefore the amount of AP remained at 1,200 rounds. However, I cannot discover how much HC you had on board for this operation. The reason for this is that although your allowance was 2,160 rounds you reported having expended in the preliminary operations 2,564 rounds HC which is more than your allowance.

If you have any notes on this matter or if your memory can somehow clear this up I should like very much to have the facts. Could it have been that you had no HC left at all?

If you cannot answer this for me, will you give me the name of your Gunnery Officer at that time and I will write him also.

With best regards and with appreciation for all you have done to assist me in this analytical operation, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R.W. BATES

Rear Admiral Maurice E. Curtis, USN
Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Force
Pacific Fleet
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

0601

20 July 1954

Dear Jack:

Your letter to the War College referring to the error in your name as Commanding Officer of the KITKUN BAY at the Battle for Leyte Gulf has been referred to me. I regret very much that this error occurred because there is no excuse whatever for it. Your name is listed clearly in your Action Report and all names were supposedly selected for this analysis from the Action Reports or from the Deck Logs. I plan now to put out an errata sheet to point out this error. This may have the effect of alerting someone else to the fact that there may be other errors. I hope not but there may be.

You may have perhaps noted that a number of the "plates" are not in the correct places. This was not the fault of the Naval War College. The volume sent to the Navy Department for publication was correct. However, the Government Printing Office decided to re-number a couple of pages and in so doing, so upset the basic book as to throw some of the plates out of position. This irritates me greatly because I had warned the Bureau of Naval Personnel about this probability and pointed out that I had had to completely reject the original printing of the Battle of Savo Island because it had been messed up thoroughly by the GPO.

I hope that, except for the error which you reported, you found the book up to the high standard which you have a right to expect. If you have noted anything in it with which you disagree, I should be happy to hear of it.

Volume Two should be out in the Spring and I can assure you that the error listed in this volume as regards yourself will not be repeated.

I hope to be in the Bohemian Grove next week. If you are there I will look you up.

As ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral John P. WHITNEY, USN
Commander Carrier Division FIVE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

0602

17 August 1954

Dear Bud:

I am preparing to send out to certain critics Volume II of the Battle for Leyte Gulf, which covers the operations of Admiral Oldendorf's forces opening at 0719, 17 October and embracing up to 2400, 19 October. There is considerable comment on submarine operations and notably on the operations in the vicinity of the Bungo Suido where the Wolf Pack Commander, on his own initiative, changed his basic objectives. I have had this submarine data studied by Captain Metcalf, who was submarine operations officer recently for ComSubPac and by Captain Styles, who was a submarine commander and more recently a submarine division commander. Your help is always appreciated in studying and commenting upon our analysis here and I hope, if you have time, you will be willing to read it now.

I was out on the Coast the other day and am glad to say that Frog Low has offered to study the analysis as well. I note you are in CruDivFOUR. This touches old memories as Admiral Oldendorf was ComCruDivFOUR for a long time in the Pacific and for a very short time I was Chief of Staff for CruDivFOUR. Actually I was ordered as Chief of Staff for the Bombardment Forces Western Pacific which covered many ships, and later as Chief of Staff for BatDivONE.

I hope that by now you have received Volume I. I made some modifications in the submarines based upon your recommendations. I hope that you have been able to note these changes. So far, every submarine officer that has studied this book has commended favorably on the analysis, including Captain Hogan until recently Operations Officer for ComSubPac. I hope that this continues.

With best regards and hoping that you are having a most pleasant cruise, I am,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral E. E. Yeomans, USN
Commander Cruiser Division FOUR
c/o Fleet Post Office
New York, N.Y.

0603

17 August 1954

Dear Lieutenant Hutchison:

I have been away for a month in California and have, therefore, been unable to answer, until now, your most courteous letter of July 14th, relative to your inability to visit me here in the War College. I understand perfectly why it was that you were unable to do so and I am sorry that these difficulties prevented your visit.

As you know, the British Navy and the U.S. Navy during World War II, and perhaps even now, employed different terminology in their torpedo problems. I had hoped that you could help me to understand a little better the action reports on torpedo firing made by the Australian destroyer ARUNTA in the Battle of Surigao Strait on 25 October 1944. I think, however, that I will be able to clear this up from other sources, so you need not worry about it.

The visit of the SHEFFIELD to Newport was a very memorable affair and many people speak of it in a most friendly way. I personally enjoyed meeting the officers of your ship and hope to see many of them again.

With best regards, and with many thanks for your thoughtful letter, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Lieutenant Gordon Hutchison, R.N.
H.M.S. SHEFFIELD

*H.M.S. DOCKPYARD
HAMILTON, BERMUDA*

0604

17 August 1954

Dear Rollo:

I am preparing to send out to certain critics Volume II of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. This volume covers the operations of Admiral Oldendorf's advance forces from 0719, 17 October, until 2400, 19 October, and the Japanese reactions thereto. As you helped me greatly in my discussion of the operations of the Third Fleet, I should appreciate your kindness if you could find time to criticize Volume II. I am anxious to get it to the press so that it may follow Volume I reasonably closely. I do not see how I can get it out despite this until next summer.

I hope that you are enjoying your cruise with CruDivTHREE. I think that cruisers are a beautiful command and I shall envy you forever.

Things are going along well here at the War College. Admiral McCormick has become President and perhaps you know Admiral Conolly quit early to be President of Long Island University. The College will open in a few days. We have an excellent staff and a very fine student body. The latter are coming in daily until October 20th, when we reopen. We will be ready for a lot of hard work.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral R. E. Wilson, USN
Commander Cruiser Division THREE
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

0605

18 August 1954

Dear Admiral Goodwin:

I am enclosing herewith a plate for Volume II of the study of the Battle for Leyte Gulf, which lists the Japanese airfields in the Philippines at that time. There is one field listed in Japanese reports which we cannot locate. This is MALABKA, which is presumably on the east coast of Leyte near Dulag. I should appreciate your assistance if you could locate this airfield on this plate and return the same to me.

I hope you are enjoying your cruise in the Philippines. As an old Chief of Staff of the Philippine Sea Frontier at the end of the War, I learned to have an appreciation of the strategic worth of these interesting but hot islands.

I met one of my old Philippine friends in the Bohemian Grove this summer which grove, as you know, is located at Monte Rio on the Russian River. This friend is Joseph McMicking, whom I am sure you will encounter during your stay there as his family and his wife's family are powerful in the Philippines. At present he is living in the San Francisco area. He is quite a cribbage player and claimed the championship of the Western Pacific, but I wrested it from him on Admiral Kauffman's yacht in the presence, I think, of General Eisenhower. I have never relinquished the title.

Please give my best regards to Admiral and Mrs. Spruance, who are old friends of mine and old friends of the Naval War College.

You will be interested to know that Ralph Ofstie married (Captain) Joy Hancock on August 16th. Very interesting, indeed!

Best regards and many thanks for the help. I am,

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Hugh H. Goodwin, USN
Commander Naval Forces Philippines
Navy No. 961
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

0606

18 August 1954

Dear John:

I have been seeking for a very long time to get some information concerning CTF 38, Vice Admiral Mitscher's operations during the Battle for Leyte Gulf. I have some information after the 21st of October because here we have certain voice and deck logs which give information concerning his actions during that time. But during the time that I am now working on, 17-23 October, I have very little information.

If you will remember you were unable to locate his War Diary although we did succeed in locating the War Diary of Commander Third Fleet. Why CTF 38 did not make a War Diary, as you suggested, I do not know. In this connection it is interesting to note that the War Diary of Commander Third Fleet bears a close resemblance to the type War Diary which should have been submitted by CTF 38.

I would appreciate it very much if you could cause the wheels to turn so that the dispatches issued by CTF 38 during and relating directly to the Leyte operation be made available to this command. Since Admiral Halsey ran the operations directly and, in general, bypassed CTF 38 completely, we have reason to believe CTF 38 issued only a very limited number of such dispatches. However, we could be wrong in this regard; there may be some dispatches of importance.

I hope to be down in Washington presently and I will discuss this matter fully with you.

Best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral John B. Heffernan, USN
Chief of Naval History
Room 2509 Main Navy
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D.C.

0607

24 August 1954

Dear Captain Loud:

Sometime ago I sent to Washington to find your address and I discovered you were on the IOWA. I had planned to ask you some questions about the operations of the minecraft under you at the Battle for Leyte Gulf, but for some reason I forgot to send you the papers - at least I appear to have forgot because I cannot find any record of any letter relating thereto.

At the present time I am endeavoring to find in particular the correct names of three of your officers, to wit:

- a. Sweep Unit FOUR - LT R.J. STACHLI, USNR
- b. Sweep Unit SEVEN - LT BURNS, USNR
- c. Sweep Unit Eight - LTJG DALY, USNR

These names as shown in Volume I of the Battle for Leyte Gulf which, if you are on the IOWA, you have in your safe and which was issued about two months ago, are the best we could do at the time. There seems to be some doubt about LT STACHLI, Ralph J., because we cannot find him listed anywhere. Can you provide me with the full names of LT BURNS, who commanded Sweep Unit Seven, and LTJG DALY, who commanded Sweep Unit Eight? If you cannot, can you offer a suggestion thereon?

I should like to send you that portion of Volume II on the operations of the minecraft in the Battle for Leyte Gulf. This volume covers Admiral Oldendorf's Advance operations between 0719, October 17th and 2400, October 19th, 1944, and therefore your advance operations. If you would like to review what we have written I shall be happy to send it to you.

I hope you are enjoying your command to the fullest. It is a beautiful command and one I should very much like to have had when I was in the command belt.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Captain Wayne R. Loud, USN
Commanding Officer, U.S.S. IOWA (BB-61)
c/o Fleet Post Office
New York, N.Y.

0608

26 August 1954

Dear Admiral Tichenor:

Volume I of the Battle for Leyte Gulf has been published and has been reviewed by many submarine officers, not the least of whom were the Commander Submarine Force, Pacific Fleet, and his various heads of departments. I understand from their operations officer that they thought the writeup was surprisingly good and were particularly astonished at the amount of information we have produced on submarines.

I have had Volume II which has been completed, reviewed by numerous submarine officers here at the War College, notably Captain Styles, Captain Post, and Captain Metcalf. They have accepted it more or less 100%. I am therefore writing to ask you, in view of your experiences in SOWESPac and in view of your assistance in reviewing Volume I, if you will review the submarine activities, notably of SOWESPac (TF 71) submarines, in Volume II.

If you will do so, I will send you what has been written, and it may be helpful to you to refresh your own knowledge of what had occurred; thereby making you able to offer constructive criticisms.

You will be interested to know that I finally deleted from Volume I Admiral Yeomans' comments on the willingness of submarine commanders to go anywhere and their delight in doing so. I did this because Vice Admiral Momsen, to whom I had shown the section in Volume I where I had included Admiral Yeomans' comments, advised me to remove it. He stated that he had been the Head of the Medals Award Board at this time, and that the statement in the book, a large part of which I got from you, was absolutely correct, and that Admiral Yeomans was in error. He further stated that the Medals Award Board was instructed to, and did everything possible, to convey to the submarine commanders the necessity for sinking shipping and thereby caused less and less interest to be devoted toward reconnaissance and other similar duties.

0609

26 August 1954

I am telling you about this because I feel confident that it will relieve your mind and because I know that you had the thought that perhaps Admiral Yeomans was right.

Jack Titus is now in this section and he sends his best to you.

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Murray J. Tichenor, USN(Ret)
P.O. Box 306
Millville, N.J.

0610

31 August 1954

Dear Jimmy:

I was out in California the other day and had a great opportunity to talk for several hours with Admiral Nimitz. He told me about his trip to the Mediterranean and was particularly pleased with the wonderful manner in which he was handled by both you and by Admiral Mountbatten for whom he has a very high regard. He looks extremely well and I feel confident that the royal reception you gave him has had a great effect in improving his health which I thought, when I saw him last year, was not good. I am telling you about this because I feel that you should know how Admiral Nimitz feels about this jaunt of his.

We are working hard here on the continuing story of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. I feel confident that you now have our first volume at hand. I shall be quite interested in your reactions to it and, in particular, to your reactions toward the submarine writeup, not only because of your great knowledge of submarines but also because, whether you know it or not, you helped me considerably in writing this chapter. I had the submarine section reviewed by numerous submarine officers here and elsewhere before publishing it, and the general opinion was that it was very fair and well done. I hope that you concur. If it is of any interest to you, the recent operations officer of ComSubPac - Captain Hogan - who has just reported in for duty here at the War College, says that out there they took the volume, studied the submarine operations, had conferences on it and in the end decided, as stated above, that it was very fair and well done. He says they were particularly interested in knowing where I obtained all the submarine data. They didn't seem to realize that there were many sources available in the various storehouses throughout the country and in Pearl Harbor.

I was delighted to hear that the submariners had studied the book as closely as they did. This indicates to me that they are very alert and are very anxious to improve their performance wherever possible. This is a sign of intelligent growth and I love it. In fact, I am so pleased that they went to this effort that it compensates me for the many hours I put into it.

0611

31 August 1954

You know, of course, that Admiral McCormick is now President of the War College. He is an excellent President. He understands the problems facing the College, ~~is~~ working hard to improve the courses, and I think is already succeeding. We have a two-year course here in addition to the one-year course. This course, which was founded by Admiral Conolly, will number at first only a few students. It is designed for the development of future planners for which the one-year course was not considered adequate. Needless to say, I thoroughly agree for I have been working for years to improve the professional judgement in command of our higher officers. This will help to accomplish it.

I hope to go to Washington on the week of the 12th and I hope to find out down there what the reactions are there toward the French rejection of the EDC. Perhaps there is a better solution.

With best regards and many thanks for all the assistance you have given me in the past, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Vice Admiral James Fife, USN
U.S. Naval Deputy Commander-in-Chief
Mediterranean
c/o Fleet Post Office
New York, N.Y.

0612

2 September 1954

Dear Captain Loud:

I cannot thank you too much for your prompt reply to my letter giving me the names of the three officers of your minesweeping group which I had been unable to obtain from any other source.

I am now sending you the almost complete edition of Volume II of the Battle for Leyte Gulf which I hope you will read. I am not asking you to read the entire volume but only the minesweeping operations for the three days, October 17th, 18th, and 19th. These are pages 14-19, 212-214, and 385-386. I have sent you the complete volume so that you can obtain the background of the operations which were being supported by your heroic minesweeping activities.

I should like you to suggest any changes which you feel should be made. I have written up the 17th rather fully to show (a) the nature of minesweeping operations, and (b) the difficulties encountered when weather conditions are adverse. Having done that it seemed reasonable to confine the minesweeping writeup simply to accomplishment.

For your information, it has been difficult to get all of the information we required on the minesweepers because the data is either lacking or very inconclusive. Many of the reports are of no use whatsoever.

I should appreciate your courtesy if you would check the names of your minecraft commanding officers as shown on pages 471 and 472 of Volume I which, as pointed out in my previous letter, you have in your safe because it is confidential.

I am rushing this volume to you because I have noted your orders to Japan as you had forecast and I want to clear up the minesweeping section before you depart the IOWA. I think that your assignment is an excellent one and will be a fine boost towards the two stars for which I felt sure you were headed when I first associated with you in the Leyte Gulf operation.

Please return Volume II as soon as you have completed your study.

Many thanks for your cooperation. I am,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Captain Wayne R. Loud, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer, U.S.S. IOWA (BB-61)
c/o Fleet PostOffice
New York, N.Y.

0613

7 September 1954

Dear Murray:

Thank you very much for your letter of recent date wherein you agreed to look over the operations of the submarines of the SEVENTH Fleet. I am sending to you, under separate cover, the whole volume, and, of course, you are free to read any or all of it as you see fit. I should certainly appreciate your comments should you disagree with anything. As this volume is confidential I hope that you will give it reasonable security. Actually, except for the cover outside, I haven't had it listed as confidential yet so that you will be able to handle it with a little less care.

I have Captain Wayne Loud, commanding officer of the IOWA, reading the minesweeper portion of this volume and I have asked Admiral Yeomans and Admiral Wilson to review, respectively, the activities of SOWESPAC and the THIRD Fleet. I am anxious to get this into the press presently as I want Volume II to follow Volume I reasonably closely. I hope, therefore, that you will be able to spare enough time to give this a thorough reading and at the same time return it here as soon as practicable.

I suppose you know that Admiral Kalbfus, a former President of the Naval War College, died yesterday and that his funeral will be held tomorrow. He was a fine gentleman and did a lot to broaden the thinking of naval officers. I feel sure a lot of his work paid dividends in World War II.

With best regards to you, and for your thoughtfulness to read, in particular, the operations of SOWESPAC submarines, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Murray J. Tichenor, USN(Ret)
P.O. Box 306
Millville, N.J.

0614

9 September 1954

Dear McKillip:

I am expected to be in Washington next week at which time I will come up to see you about the weather charts which you sent to us for the days, 17, 18, and 19 October 1944. My great concern is that the weather maps submitted and used in Volume I of the Battle for Leyte Gulf differ from those you have prepared for Volume II. In Volume I, in the original weather charts, there is an inter-tropical front. On the charts which you have submitted there is no inter-tropical front. The weather in the Kyushu area on October 18th was so bad that the Commander in Chief, who was flying from Shinchiku, Formosa to Hiyoshi (Tokyo), was weathered in at Omura, which is in west central Kyushu. This weather is shown to a degree on the weather chart for October 17th in Volume I; it is completely missing in Volume II.

I know that your command has done a great deal of work on this and I am in no way critical excepting to suggest that those aerologists who worked on the weather maps for Volume II should have consulted the work done in Volume I. I don't know whether or not you have a copy of Volume I but it is there in the CNO files. I should appreciate your help if you would draw out the Diagram section of Volume I from the CNO office and have it there when I arrive, probably on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Outside of that, things are going along very well up here. Admiral McCormick has taken over the Naval War College in great style and your Alma Mater is rising steadily into the apex of military education. If we could get you back here I would be satisfied. Perhaps you might have told me about the hurricane before it hit!

With best regards to you and with hopes that you will not be too upset about the difficulties above mentioned because I think they are readily repairable, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Captain John C.S. McKillip, USN
Room 5E625 OPNAV
Pentagon, Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0615

21 September 1954

Dear Captain McKillip:

I am forwarding to you under separate cover, the three charts for Volume II, dates October 17, 18, and 19, 1944, which you kindly did for me. I am also forwarding with these three charts the chart for Volume I for October 17, 1944, which, as I pointed out to you in Washington the other day, is quite different from the charts for later dates.

I am sending you also a copy of Volume II, and I refer to the following pages where weather is discussed:

5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 51, 54, 76, 86, 141, 147, 151, 156, 162, 163, 171, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 185, 189, 195, 198, 199, 208, 211a, 215, 220, 225, 230, 231, 235, 240, 241, 248a, 249, 251, 253, 254, 271, 276, 282, 306, 319, 321, 324, 338, 339, 344, 345, 360, 375, 383, 403, 406, 408, 414, 415, 429, 433, 435, 500, 517, 533

I know that you are very busy with Senator Green's problems, but I am pretty anxious to get these charts as I wish to have Volume II printed presently and I must check it to insure that it conforms to the weather.

I hope that you and Senator Green don't come to blows, but if you do, let me know, and I may be able to turn the Democratic delegation loose on him, either pro or con I don't know.

Best regards to you and yours, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Captain J.C.S. McKillip, USN
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
OP-533, Room 5E609 Pentagon Building
Navy Department
Washington 25, D.C.

0616

30
22 September 1954

Dear Frank:

In view of the fact that you indicated to me the other day that you would presently be leaving your present assignment and would likely be assigned to duty possibly in this area, I am seizing this opportunity to thank you very much for all the help which you gave this command during your stay in Washington. I have had the good fortune to work with your predecessors, all of whom were very helpful, but none were as helpful as you. I have told Admiral McCormick of your attitude toward things and I know he is as gratified as I am.

I hope that before you leave you will have made arrangements for the painting of Admiral McCormick, as a President of the Naval War College, by a competent artist. I know of two: one, Albert Murray, and the other, Dwight C. Shepler. Albert Murray painted Admiral Spruance and Dwight Shepler painted Admiral Conolly. There is a difference between these two artists, in that Shepler is more of a landscape artist than a portrait painter, whereas Albert Murray is essentially a portrait painter. Both Murray and Shepler painted these Presidents of the Naval War College while on active duty; Dwight Shepler was recalled for that assignment about a year ago in the case of Admiral Conolly. It has been the practice over the years to paint the Presidents of the Naval War College, and at the present time all of the recent Presidents' portraits are hanging in Mahan Hall, which is the Library.

I should like to thank you very much for help in permitting me to hold Mrs. Tanaka as long as we did. Mr. LeMay tells me that she is either to be dropped on September 30th or is to be transferred, for further operations connected with micro-filming, to Admiral Heffernan's office. I had hoped to hold her longer because some new matters have arisen in our research here which require, if possible, some War Diary translations which are supposed to be in the National Archives. They were in the Washington Document Center and were transferred to the National Archives, but no one knows if they are there or not. Apparently, the only person who could find out would be Mrs. Tanaka.

I tried to explain this to Mr. LeMay. He seemed quite favorable and receptive, asked me for "how long?" and I said December 30th. He assured me that there were funds in abundance for this purpose. However, I realize that I have

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22 September 1954

held her longer than I had a right to expect and I know that you have done all that you have felt you properly should do, so that's that. Therefore, I won't bother you anymore.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Frank T. Watkins, USN
Room 4E474 OPNAV
Department of the Navy
Washington 25, D.C.

0618

54
22 September 1944

Dear Frog:

In accordance with your very kind offer, I am sending, under separate cover, a copy of our Volume II of the Battle for Leyte Gulf, which, as you will note, covers the operations from the sighting by the Japanese of Admiral Struble's forces off Suluan Island at 0719 October 17th, until 2400 October 19th, 1944, at which time the Allied transports were entering Leyte Gulf, preparatory to landing on the following morning. I shall appreciate your kindness very much if you will read this Volume, and, if you see any errors will point them out. I realize that you are a very busy man but I will also appreciate your courtesy if you will study this analysis at an early date as we desire to publish it presently. I have only five copies additional to the original, and these are already being distributed to other officers, besides yourself, for study. You will observe that this volume is not quite completed in that the Brief Narrative is only partially completed and the Epilogue with which I plan to end this Volume in a manner similar to that done for Volume I has not been written at all. It will be only one page.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit with you out on the Coast and it was nice of you to give me a portion of the limited time which you had available. I was also glad to meet Mrs. Low, whom I thoroughly enjoyed meeting. She is quite a lass!

Admiral McCormick was quite interested in my comments about you and was gratified exceedingly when I told him that you had volunteered to criticize Volume II.

For your information he is doing a very fine job as President and is adequately suited for this assignment. Owing in part to your help, the college is moving along very successfully and I feel sure that, in time, you will be very happy because of your share in its' accomplishments. We hear a great deal now, all favorable, about the War College from various sources and intellectuals, such as President Wriston of Brown University. None of this could have been accomplished had it not been for the understanding help we had from a lot of people, but notably from yourself. One thing which you helped effect, and which is of great importance today to the welfare of the personnel of the War College, was the transfer of Fort Adams to the Navy.

0619

22 September 1954

It is being used more and more to house both students and staff. We are now completing the building of Wherry Housing there, which, when completed, will house some two hundred officers.

Our Logistics work here has vastly improved, for which Mick Carney and you are in a large way responsible. Strategy, Tactics, and Logistics are so entwined that it is remarkable that we accomplished as much as we did in the early days of the War; one realizes now the indifference with which most commanders viewed Logistics. Even here at the War College, it was touched upon most lightly. Fortunately, both you and Carney understand this point thoroughly and with the President of the Naval War College have practically forced the Navy to accept Logistics as of primary importance.

The weather here, of course, has been rather bad as you have noted in the press. Hurricane Carol did a great deal of damage and Hurricane Edna completed what Carol had started. We got the full force of Carol - about 110 knots - but in Edna, we escaped to a degree and received only about 85 knots. There was plenty of rain. Our Navy beach - Third Beach - Hazard's Beach, and a large section of Bailey's Beach were demolished, and the City's First Beach suffered heavily. Owing to the fact that the wind and the sea were together, that is, the high wind and the high tide, the water line rose about ten feet above the normal level; I think that up around Providence it rose at least fifteen feet. The wind was destructive but the water much more so.

Did you hear about the butcher who backed into his meat-slicing machine, thereby getting a little behind in his orders?

With best regards to you and yours, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Vice Admiral Francis S. Low, USN
Commander Western Sea Frontier
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

0620